University of North Texas (UNT)

Mathematics and Science Initiative University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Activity: Schools' Cooperative Opportunities for Resources and Education (SCORE)

Goal area of the activity: Increase public awareness

Summary of work

Under the guidance of University of North Texas Health Science Center faculty and experienced teachers in the Fort Worth Independent School District, Graduate Fellows incorporate basic scientific, health/medical, and technology advances into laboratory sessions and offer tutoring and mentoring to students under the direction of the teachers with whom they are teamed.

Fellows are selected annually through competitive applications from the Health Science Center's biomedical science graduate students, who are matched in pairs with high school biology teachers in one of the designated schools. In return for a stipend provided through an NSF initiative, the Fellows must contribute a minimum of 10 hours of classroom time per week for the nine-month school year while presenting hands-on, inquiry-based science laboratory curriculum whenever possible. Fellows may apply to participate in subsequent years.

Project SCORE also funds equipment installed in the classrooms of participating teachers. Digital, Internet-ready ceiling-mounted projectors capable of displaying website-derived interactive resources and live microscope images enable all students to participate in observations and discussions. The project also maintains a speaker's bureau of Health Science Center faculty who are available to present seminars for teachers of high school science.

Purpose of activity: To improve the overall learning environment and science understanding of high school students and to encourage their entry into science-related careers.

Accomplishments/Results

Enables eight "Fellows" annually to enhance the scientific learning and knowledge of students and to interact with their teachers around development of curriculum supportive of hands-on, inquiry-based learning supported by technology

Plans for next 12 months

Develop the speaker's bureau through collaboration with North Texas Teachers as Scholars